

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

PAUL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you my Report for the year 1902.

Inspection of the District: House Accommodation and Repairs.

During the year I have periodically inspected all parts of the district. The cottages are in the main old, but, speaking generally, are in fair condition. Many are without courtlages, most without closets. During the year four new houses were added at Newlyn, two at Mousehole. Four old houses were repaired at Newlyn, four at Mousehole, after notice from your Authority. Many houses are closely packed, but no serious overcrowding was ascertained. A high level of cleanliness of the interiors is still for the most part maintained, but the increase in accommodation lags somewhat behind the growth in population, judged by the censuses of 1891 and 1901.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Some useful work has been done in these particulars by the laying of a 9-inch sewer at Paul Churchtown with four connections, and by connection of ten houses at Newlyn, four at Mousehole.

I again urge upon your Authority the necessity of carrying the sewerage of Newlyn Town to a point outside the limits of the harbour.

Scavenging.

The streams at Tolcarn and Mousehole continue to be polluted by refuse, though, I think, less than formerly. Your scavenging of Newlyn (three times a week) improves as the inhabitants grow more accustomed to the cart, but at Mousehole (which you also profess to scavenge three times a week) I have seen piles of refuse near the roadside of some age.

Water Supply.

I hope that the Newlyn Water Scheme may soon reach completion, so that the present difficulty in obtaining water at Street-an-Nowan may be removed.

Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops.

There is 1 Slaughter-house in the district at Newlyn. It is not registered but is occasionally inspected. There would appear to be 83 dairies, 87 cow-sheds, and 10 milk-shops. These are not registered, but many have been inspected during the year.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Bake-houses.

There are 14 bake-houses in the district: 8 at Newlyn, 6 at Mousehole. All have been inspected and registered. Two have been limewashed under orders. In one case a defective drain near, but outside the building, was ordered to be remedied. The ventilation was found good in all, and there was no overcrowding. The means of escape in case of fire were in all adequate. None communicated with any sleeping place on the same level. None were underground.

Workshops and Workplaces.

Fish-curing'.—Eleven have been inspected and registered: 6 at Newlyn, 5 at Mousehole. All were found to be in clean condition. The ventilation was good, and there was no overcrowding. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Boot and Shoe Maker's.—Eight were inspected and registered: 5 at Newlyn, 3 at Mousehole. One was found to be unsatisfactory. The building was closed, and new and satisfactory premises built. In 2 cases limewashing was enforced. One was ordered to be better ventilated. The rest were in good condition. There was no overcrowding. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Plumber's.—One, recently built at Newlyn, was found in good condition and registered. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Cooper's.—One at Newlyn, found in good condition, registered. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Carpenter's, Joiner's, Wheelwright's.—Eight were inspected and registered: 4 at Newlyn, 2 at Mousehole, 1 at Paul, 1 at Sheffield. All were found in good condition. No overcrowding. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Boat-builder's.—One, at Mousehole, was found in good condition. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Sailmaker's.—Three (2 at Newlyn, 1 at Mousehole) were inspected and registered. All in good condition. No overcrowding. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Blacksmith's.—Three (1 at Newlyn, 1 at Mousehole, 1 at Sheffield) were inspected and registered. All in good condition. No overcrowding. Means of escape in case of fire adequate.

Quarries. Stone-breaking, Cutting, and Working.—Two quarries are Factories, viz., Gwavas and Penolver. There are 6 others in the district.

I know of no cases of home work affected by the Act.

Vital Statistics, 1902.

In 1902, 167 births (86 male, 81 female) were registered. This gives a birth-rate of 26.18, being 2.47 lower than the average of the preceding 10 years. Ninety-one deaths (39 male, 52 female,) occurred, giving a death-rate of 14.265, being 1.28 below the average of the preceding 10 years.

The infantile mortality is at the rate of 119.76, being between 18 and 19 below the average of the 10 years. The zymotic death-rate is 2.978.

The death and infantile mortality rates are moderate. The incidence of the general death-rate upon the several localities is shewn in the following paragraphs. For this purpose the 1901 census returns are taken as a basis of calculation.

NEWLYN.

In Newlyn 49 deaths occurred during the year, giving a death-rate of 13.07.

The largest number of deaths, proportionately, took place in the months of February, March, and April, when 12 were due to Measles, at ages from 10 months to 4 years.

Three deaths took place from Diphtheria in November (1) and December (2), at ages of 3 (2) and 4 years.

One death at 66 years took place from Chronic Diarrhœa in March, and one at 73 years from Gastric Catarrh in February.

There were 2 deaths from General Tuberculosis, at 3 and 22 years.

Two deaths took place from Cancer.

Five were from Bronchitis, 3 from Pneumonia. Of these 1 occurred in January (at 11 months), 1 in February (at 2 months), 3 in March (at 9 months, 15 months, and 72 years), 1 in April (at 72 years), and 2 in December (at 49 and 82 years of age).

Five persons died from Heart disease, 2 from accidents, and 1 from premature birth.

No deaths took place from Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Croup, Typhoid, Influenza, Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas, Phthisis or Pleurisy.

Ten cases of Diphtheria were notified between October 25th and the end of the year. The age-distribution was as follows :—

	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 up
Cases ..	0	5	5	0	0	0
Deaths ...	0	3	0	0	0	0

The immunity of children in the first year of life, and the high fatality in the 1-5 age-period are marked.

One case of Typhoid at 9 years of age was notified in May, but happily recovered.

No other notifiable infectious diseases were reported.

MOUSEHOLE.

At Mousehole 21 deaths were registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 12.69.

Of these 1 took place (at 24 years) from Typhoid, (at 39 years) from Puerperal Fever, both in September.

Two deaths from Phthisis occurred.

There were two deaths from Cancer.

Two deaths from Bronchitis occurred, 1 in April at 83 years, 1 in May at 3 months of age.

One death from Catarrhal Laryngitis, at 3 years of age, took place in January.

Three deaths were due to Heart Disease, 1 to Premature Birth.

There were no deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Croup, Influenza, Diarrhoea, Erysipelas, Pneumonia, or Pleurisy.

In addition to the above-mentioned cases of Typhoid (1) and Puerperal Fever (1), no other cases were notified.

COUNTRY DISTRICT.

Twenty-one deaths were registered in the rural portion of the district, giving a high death-rate of 22.63.

Of these 1 took place from Measles (at 23 months of age) in March, 1 from Diphtheria (at 19 months) in September.

One was from Phthisis.

There were 1 from Pneumonia, and 2 from Pulmonary Congestion : all in May. One occurred from Acute Catarrhal Laryngitis in June.

Three deaths occurred from Heart Disease, and 3 from Premature Birth.

A death from Acute Rheumatism was registered as occurring at Paul Churchtown in January in the person of a dressmaker aged 29 years. This is such a rare case of death in the district that it seems worth chronicling.

The case of Diphtheria, mentioned above, was the only one of notifiable disease reported in the country portion of the district.

Vaccination.

The vaccination of infants is, I believe, being regularly performed.

Isolation and Disinfection.

Your Authority still remains without Isolation Hospital or Disinfecting Apparatus. Both would have proved of great value during the recent Diphtheria cases.

The Diphtheria Outbreak.

As has been mentioned 11 cases in all were notified, all at ages between 1 and 15 years, and 4 deaths resulted. The houses were visited and instructed as to such disinfection and degree of isolation as were obtainable. Izal was given to the houses affected. Children therefrom were prevented from attendance at school during the infectious period.

The cases arose at a time when the disease existed in neighbouring districts. Milk-supplies were various, and neither water nor milk-contamination probable. Nor was school influence traced. I believe that the disease spread mainly by contact. Unnotified cases were alleged.

Three cases have so far been notified during 1903.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,
M.O.H., PAUL.

5, MORRAB ROAD,

PENZANCE,

February 19th, 1903.

